In the specification:

On page 1, line 5, please insert the following paragraph:

a'

This application claims priority of U.S. Serial No. 08/592,070, filed January 26, 1996 and of U.S. Serial No. 08/948,131, filed October 9, 1997 under 35 U.S.C. §120, the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference into the present application.

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 27, 28 and 29 and introduce new claims 41-58 as follows:

41. (New) A method of inhibiting of the binding of a β-sheet fibril to RAGE on the surface of a cell of a subject, wherein the cell is located outside the central nervous system of the subject, which comprises contacting the cell with a compound that inhibits binding of the β-sheet fibril to RAGE.

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42. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein the β-sheet fibril is amyloid fibril.

43. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein the β-sheet fibril is a prion- derived fibril.

44. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein the β-sheet fibril is selected from the group consisting of amyloid-β peptide, amylin, amyloid A, prion-derived peptide, transthyretin, cystatin C, gelsolin and a peptide capable of forming amyloid.

45. (new) The method of claim 44, wherein the β-sheet fibril is an amyloid-β peptide is selected from the group consisting of Aβ (1-39), Aβ (1-40), Aβ (1-42) and Aβ (1-40) Dutch variant.

46. (new) The method of claim 41, wherein the compound is sRAGE or a fragment thereof.

47. (new) The method of claim 41, wherein the compound is an anti-RAGE antibody or portion thereof.

48. (new) The method of claim 47, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

49. (new) The method of claim 48, wherein the monoclonal antibody is a human, a humanized, or a chimeric antibody.

50. (new) The method of claim 41, wherein the compound comprises a Fab fragment of an anti-RAGE antibody.

51. (new) The method of claim 41, wherein the compound comprises the variable domain of an anti-RAGE antibody.

52. (new) The method of claim 41, wherein the compound comprises one or more CDR portions of an anti-RAGE antibody.

53. (new) The method of claim 41, wherein the antibody is an IgG antibody.

54. (new) The method of claim 41, wherein the compound comprises a peptide, peptidomimetic, a nucleic acid, or an organic compound with a molecular weight less than 500 daltons.

C1 --~~55.~~ 4 (Amended) The method of claim ~~41~~ 1, wherein the cell is a mononuclear phagocyte.--

~~56.~~ 5 (new) The method of claim ~~41~~ 1, wherein the compound is a peptide analog of sRAGE.

~~57.~~ 6 (new) A method of inhibiting of the binding of a β-sheet fibril to RAGE on the surface of a cell of a subject, wherein the cell is located outside the central nervous system of the subject, which comprises administering to the subject

an amount of soluble RAGE (sRAGE) effective to inhibit binding of the β-sheet fibril to RAGE.

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58. (new) A method of inhibiting of the binding of a β-sheet fibril to RAGE on the surface of a cell of a subject, wherein the cell is located outside the central nervous system of the subject, which comprises administering to the subject an amount of a peptide fragment of sRAGE identical to the V-domain of sRAGE effective to inhibit binding of the β-sheet fibril to RAGE.

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